



ROSS-ON-WYE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1941.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

Clerical Staff:

\* O.N. LITTLE.

\* U.E. PARTRIDGE.

\* Temporary Appointments.

County Offices,  
Alton Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.

Telephone - Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing  
Designated Officer.

\* R. SHAW BATCHFORD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

\* Holds Statutory Sanitary Inspectors  
Certificate and Certificate of  
R.S.I. for Meat and Other  
Foods.

Council Chambers,  
Broad Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.

Telephone - Ross 62.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Ross-on-Wye Urban  
District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report  
for the Year 1941, which like that for the previous year is an  
interim report.

Notwithstanding the difficulties of the times  
the health of the District has been remarkably good throughout  
the year. The figures for diphtheria immunisation carried out  
during the year are the highest on record, this is most satisfactory

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude  
to the Council for the support which has always been given to me  
in the discharge of my duties. I also have to acknowledge much  
assistance given to me by Mr. R. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector  
to the Council, Mr. E. Moses, Clerk to the Council and Mr. C. H.  
Caddick, Surveyor to the Council, not only in the preparation of  
this report but throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

*William Hogg*

Medical Officer of Health.

August 1942.



SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in Acres):	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,004.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,318.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£31,518.
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£131.6. 6.

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

<u>Birth Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	13.8
<u>Stillbirths Rate</u> per 1,000 (live & still) births	...	...	50
<u>Death Rate</u> per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	...	18.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

			<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total Births.</u>
Heading no.29	...	Puerperal Sepsis.	nil	nil
" " 30	...	Other Puerperal Causes.	nil	nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	85.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	97.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	nil

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:Laboratory Facilities:-

The number of specimens examined by the County and City Public Health Laboratory during the year were as follows:-

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Sputa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro Spinal Fluid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fus smear	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water - Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Total								<u>57</u>

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:Water:

During the year, 3 samples of water were taken from the supply of the Ross Water Undertaking and examined at the County and City Laboratory and after bacteriological examination all samples were found to be satisfactory for potable purposes. Six samples of drinking water were taken from wells in the district and bacteriological examination revealed that 4 of the samples were not sufficiently pure for the waters to be safe for potable purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage:

Two new drains have been constructed these being new drains to existing premises. All drains were examined and tested by the Sanitary Inspector.

Rivers and Streams:

One animal carcass was removed from the river Wye and buried on the instruction of the Council.

Public Cleansing:

The Council undertakes a weekly collection of household refuse throughout the district, disposal being by tipping. The town tip was maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the year.



## Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

I am indebted to Mr. R. Shaw Batchford, Sanitary Inspector to the Council for the following statement - furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

### Inspections:

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Markets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Military Billet Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Premises where food is prepared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Miscellaneous - under Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	386
Hospital Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Total								<u>733</u>

### Notices Issued:

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total								<u>63</u>

### Defects Remedied:

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Verges repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
General Woodwork repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dampness improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Brickwork repaired or pointed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New W.C. apartments provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Water supply provided to W.C.s	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Area opened	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wash-houses improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Washcopper repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cellar improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New drains provided...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stopped drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rats and Mice infestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

In spite of a considerable increase in his duties in connection with Civil Defence, Mr. R. Shaw Batchford has continued to exercise an efficient control of the sanitary circumstances of the area throughout the year.

### Common Lodging Houses:

The number of these in the town remained at three. All premises have been regularly inspected throughout the year.

### Factories and Workshops:

In one factory with mechanical power new sanitary accommodation was provided. The Register of Factories was revised from time to time.



### Camping Sites:

Number of camping sites in the area used for camping purposes during the year ... ..	2
Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of Public Health Act 1936 ... ..	1
Estimated maximum campers resident in the area at one time during summer season 1941 ... ..	20

### Bed Bugs:

One house owned by the Council, and one other were found to be infested with bed bugs, and both were treated with Thermatose which appeared to give satisfactory results.

### School Closures:

There were no school closures on account of health reasons throughout the year.

## SECTION D.- HOUSING:

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:

1. (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health & Housing Acts ...	29
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	70
2.	Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation ...	29

### Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:

#### Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	31
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Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a)	By Owners ... ..	29
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	nil

### Van Dwellings:

The removal of one hutment which migrated into the District during the year was secured as a result of informal action by the Department.

Unless control is maintained with regard to these dwellings, small settlements would become established, accompanied no doubt, with the insanitary environment which appears to be inseparable from groups of these dwellings.

In one instance, and elderly sick and infirm person was found to be living in lodgings in a filthy condition. Removal of the patient to Hospital was secured and the cleansing of the premises was secured after disinfection had been carried out.

## SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:

There were five wholesale purveyors and sixteen retail purveyors of milk registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year. Much attention was devoted by the Department to milk supplies. Dairies and cowsheds were regularly inspected and the Sanitary Inspector regularly carries out sedimentation tests on samples of milk taken from the various purveyors. Two samples of milk were sent to the County and City Public Health Laboratory for examination for tubercle. Both samples failed to show the presence of the tubercle bacillus.



### Meat and Other Foods:

No slaughtering, other than emergency slaughter has been carried out in the town during the year.

The Sanitary Inspector endeavours to inspect as much of the meat exposed for sale as is possible, but, the inspection of the whole presents too great a task as the Inspector is very fully occupied at the present time. He has from time to time, undertaken periods of duty as meat inspector at the Hereford City Abattoir. The Inspector regularly attends the markets etc.

### Food found to be unfit for human consumption:

Beast Liver	1
Jam.	13 lbs.
Bacon.	5 cwt. 1 qtr. 26½ lbs
Sausage.	10 lbs.
Pork Pies.	3
Rabbits.	3
Eggs.	40 gross. & 30.
Sugar.	91
Bread.	16 lbs.
Beef.	30 lbs.
Ham.	1
Beast Lungs.	1 pr.
Sheep.	1
Turkey.	1
Various Foodstuffs.	173 tins.

### SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

The most prevalent infectious diseases were measles and whooping cough. These diseases occurred during the first three quarters of the year and disappeared during the last quarter which was entirely free from any notifiable disease with the exception of one case of mild scarlet fever. The district remained remarkably free from scarlet fever. One death occurred from whooping cough during the year.

### Notifiable Disease during the Year 1941:

Disease:	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	2	1
Diphtheria	3	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	nil	nil
Pneumonia	1	nil
Erysipelas	2	nil
Whooping Cough	26	nil
Measles	25	nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1

### Analysis of Total Notified Cases according to age:

Disease	Age Groups.												Totals
	Un- der 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Measles	2	4	3	2	2	6	3	2	-	1	-	-	25
Whooping Cough	2	3	3	2	-	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	26
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	6	7	6	4	2	22	5	3	2	1	-	3	61



### Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 368 children were given courses of diphtheria prophylactic. Of these children 75 were under school age, the remainder being children of school age. The material used was alum precipitated toxoid (A.P.T.) and toxoid antitoxin floccules (T.A.F.). These results represented a remarkable achievement, but unfortunately all parents did not avail themselves of the facilities offered.

### Tuberculosis:

At the beginning of the year there were 19 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 9 being pulmonary cases and 10 being cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. During the year 5 cases of pulmonary and 5 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were added to the register and 9 cases were removed. At the end of the year 10 cases of pulmonary and 10 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis remained on the register.

### Tuberculosis - New Cases 1941:

Age Periods.	New Cases.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...	-	-	-	-
1- ...	1	-	-	1
5- ...	-	-	-	-
15- ...	-	2	2	-
25- ...	-	1	-	-
35- ...	-	-	-	1
45- ...	-	-	-	1
55- ...	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	3	2	3

### Meteorological Report:

I am indebted to Mr. F.J. Parsons, Meteorologist-in-Charge, The Observatory, Ross-on-Wye, for the following report for the year 1941:-

#### Shade Temperature (Degrees FAHR.)

Month.	Means.	Difference from Normal.	Extremes.	
			Maximum.	Minimum.
January	33.7	- 5.7	45	21
February	39.6	- 0.4	55	24
March	42.1	- 0.5	56	27
April	45.0	- 2.0	63	30
May	49.0	- 4.3	65	27
June	59.9	+ 1.3	88	42
July	63.1	+ 1.2	85	44
August	59.1	- 1.7	77	42
September	58.1	+ 1.5	77	36
October	51.3	+ 1.8	70	31
November	45.3	+ 1.7	57	31
December	43.1	+ 2.8	57	25
Year	49.1	- 0.4	88	21
			(June 21st.)	(Jan. 3rd.)



### Earth Temperature (Degrees F.)

Month.	One foot depth.	Difference from normal.	Four feet depth.	Difference from normal.
January	35.2	- 4.7	41.0	- 2.6
February	38.1	- 1.6	40.8	- 1.0
March	41.1	- 1.0	42.0	- 1.5
April	45.2	- 1.9	44.7	- 1.6
May	49.9	- 4.0	47.9	- 2.7
June	59.8	- 0.5	53.8	- 2.0
July	65.0	+ 1.7	59.9	+ 0.7
August	60.7	- 1.7	59.4	- 0.7
September	59.7	+ 1.2	58.6	- 0.3
October	53.0	+ 1.5	55.8	+ 1.1
November	45.2	+ 0.4	49.4	- 0.3
December	43.0	+ 3.1	47.6	+ 2.1
Year	49.7	- 0.7	50.1	- 0.8

### Rainfall (In inches.)

Month.	Total.	Difference from normal.	Highest daily fall.	No. of Rain days (.005 Inch or more).
January	4.20	+ 1.66	.88	22
February	3.19	+ 1.07	.63	17
March	2.17	- 0.20	.82	13
April	1.01	- 0.92	.50	6
May	1.83	- 0.28	.66	12
June	2.26	+ 0.34	.63	6
July	2.27	0.00	.57	10
August	3.31	+ 0.79	1.32	20
September	1.24	- 0.88	.48	5
October	1.89	- 1.30	.44	9
November	2.72	+ 0.05	.53	17
December	1.78	- 0.95	.73	13
Year	27.87	- 0.52	1.32 (Aug. 23rd.)	150

### Bright Sunshine (In hours and tenths).

Month.	Total.	Difference from normal.	Best Days Record.	Sunless days.
January	40.2	- 13.7	6.9	19
February	84.0	+ 16.7	8.3	8
March	95.3	- 18.7	10.5	6
April	108.3	- 35.9	10.6	2
May	137.8	- 47.0	12.2	4
June	201.1	- 5.4	14.5	4
July	209.5	+ 27.7	15.4	0
August	178.6	- 3.1	12.3	2
September	108.2	- 29.2	10.6	3
October	103.4	+ 6.5	8.3	2
November	46.5	- 15.1	7.7	10
December	45.5	- 4.9	6.2	10
Year	1,357.9	-122.1	15.4 (July 6th.)	70

The outstanding features of 1941 meteorology were the cold Spring, warm Autumn and the mid-summer drought extending over 31 days. There was a remarkable absence of autumnal frost, temperature falling only twice to freezing point or less until after Christmas.